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## Northern Lambda Nord Communique, Vol.9, No.9 (November 1988)

Northern Lambda Nord

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# COMMUNIQUE

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GAY-LESBIAN PHONELINE/TÉLÉGI - 207 498-2088

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- ▽ If your mailing label says "PAST", your NLN membership has expired, and this is your last Communiqué. Support this region's only gay-lesbian organization; RENEW YOUR NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD MEMBERSHIP TODAY!!!
- ▽ Le mot "PAST" sur votre étiquette dénote le fin de votre adhésion de Lambda Nord, et c'est votre dernier numéro de Communiqué. Supportez la seule organisation gaie-lesbienne dans cette région. RENOUVELEZ VOTRE ADHESION DE NLN AUJOURD'HUI!!!

## US & CANADIAN ELECTIONS HIGHLIGHT NOVEMBER EVENTS

The two largest nations in North America will choose their leaders this month; the U.S. goes to the polls November 8, Canadians November 21. The following is an analysis of how candidates stand on issues of importance to the lesbian-gay communities in both countries.

### ● US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

	<u>DUKAKIS</u>	<u>BUSH</u>
Federal gay civil rights bill ...	supports .....	opposes
Civil rights restoration act ...	supports .....	opposes
which includes protection of persons with AIDS (PWAs)		
Provide explicit AIDS safe sex information ...	supports .....	"teach traditional morality"
Prohibit HIV-antibody testing as a requirement to obtain health/group life/disability insurance ...	supports .....	no public position taken
Make anti-lesbian/gay violence a civil rights violation ...	supports .....	no public position taken
Equal Rights Amendment and freedom of reproductive choice for a woman ...	supports .....	opposes

Two other candidates on the ballot in Maine, running for the presidency, are RON PAUL from the Libertarian Party, and LENORA FULANI, from the New Alliance Party. Paul's positions include abolishing government research into AIDS, as well as abolition of public schools, welfare, Social Security, farm subsidies, and business licensing. He would legalize drugs, gambling, prostitution, pornography, and aberrant sexual behavior. He opposes both "the welfare state and the warfare state". Fulani supports civil rights for gay people and notes that if the Republicans win the White House, it is the fault of the Democrats because they have turned their backs on blacks and so-called progressives. "...November 9th, the Democratic Party will



Communique  
Nov. 1988

(2) come chasing after the black vote, the vote of other constituencies within the Rainbow movement -- the gay and lesbian votes -- votes they actually take for granted, then deliver absolutely nothing to the people that give them". (INSIGHT magazine)

-----● MEMBER OF US SENATE FROM MAINE -----

MITCHELL

WYMAN

Federal gay civil rights bill ... does not support  
the bill in its  
current form\*

opposes

\*In a letter to a Maine constituent dated March 18, 1988, Senator Mitchell replied to the question of his support for a federal civil rights law protecting lesbians and gaymen.

Your interest in legislation applying civil rights laws to gay people is widely shared. The difficulty facing proponents of this legislation is that it creates the potential of a legal liability for employers, landlords, and others on the basis of behavior which cannot easily be ascertained.

I do not believe we want to create a legal right for employers and others to inquire into the private lives of prospective workers. At the same time, if the employer is going to be exposed the legal liability on the basis of such a condition, it would make the law unenforcable to deny a right to inquire.

Similar difficulties are arising with respect to the recent requirement imposed on employers that they ascertain whether prospective workers are legal citizens. Native-born Americans naturally resent the demand that they prove their nativity. Americans of hispanic descent are concerned that stereotypical thinking will lead to fewer employment possibilities. And employers are naturally distressed that they are subject to fines and court actions unless they make inquiries which are offensive to a substantial number of prospective workers. There is no easy way out of this dilemma.

I believe further review and hearings to clarify these issues are needed to determine how best to develop legislation that avoids these kinds of pitfalls.

-----● MEMBER OF US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM MAINE -----

SNOWE

HAYES

Federal gay civil rights bill ... opposes ..... supports\*

\*When asked if he would sign on as a co-sponsor of the bill, he said, "I don't see why not".

----● MAINE LEGISLATURE - Senators and Representatives from Aroostook County -----

The Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance and the Maine chapter of the National Organization for Women surveyed all the candidates running for the Maine House and Senate. Aroostook County has three Senators and 12 Representatives. Rather than list them all and their positions, here are those that are supportive of gay-lesbian issues. Questions were asked concerning a gay civil rights bill, AIDS funding, and a hate-bias crimes bill providing penalties for crimes against gay people based upon hatred of us. Candidates listed responded positively on at least two issues.





SENATE candidate from District 2 (central Aroostook) - Charles Nadeau  
All other candidates for Senate are either opposed or did not respond to the surveys.

- HOUSE candidates: Dist. 141 (Houlton) - Nason Graham  
Dist. 142 (Presque Isle) - Elizabeth Beane  
Dist. 144 (Easton, Ft. Fairfield) - Carolyn Mahany  
Dist. 147 (Caribou) - Maurice Levesque  
Dist. 150 (Frenchville) - Judy Paradis

Listing of candidates' names in this report does not constitute an endorsement. This information is provided to give you an idea where representatives, if elected, would vote on issues of concern to our community. CITIZENS OF MAINE may register at the polls on election day. It is not necessary to register in a party; you may enroll as an independent.

Nov. 1988

---●CANADIAN ELECTION

Specific positions on issues affecting our community were not ascertained by any New Brunswick groups (as of press time). But the history of a party's position may give an indication of their stands. The Progressive Conservatives under Brian Mulroney pledged to include non-discrimination protections for gays and lesbians in the Charter of Rights; that has yet to be accomplished. In Ontario, under the Liberal government, non-discrimination protections were extended to gay people. The NDP in Manitoba passed similar legislation in that jurisdiction. ▽

==SI VOUS NE REVENDIQUEZ PAS VOS DROITS, QUI LES REVENDIQUERA?==

*Si vous voulez oeuvrer pour les droits des gais et lesbiennes, ne manquez pas la prochaine réunion de la Coalition pour la réforme des droits de la personne, qui aura lieu le samedi le 19 novembre au Club Equality à Sainte-Anne-de-Madawaska, à 16h00 et un buffet gratuit vers 19h00. (heures N-B)*

*La Coalition est un réseau de gais et de lesbiennes francophones et anglophones qui préconisent un amendement à la loi sur les droits de la personne provinciale afin d'interdire la discrimination contre les personnes gaies et bisexuelles dans les domaines de l'emploi, du logement, et des services publics. Un tel amendement a déjà été adopté au Manitoba, en Ontario, au Québec, et du Yukon.*

Communiqué

*Déjà, la Coalition a soumis un mémoire impressionnant au gouvernement et a rencontré certains ministres clés. Elle a aussi obtenu le support de plusieurs organisations influentes, dont la Commission des droits de la personne elle-même, ainsi que le Conseil consultatif sur la condition de la femme, l'Eglise épiscopale (i.e. anglicane), l'Association des libertés publiques, le Conseil du Premier ministre sur la condition des personnes handicapées, et l'Association des travailleurs sociaux. Plusieurs autres organisations vont nous appuyer dans les mois qui suivent.*

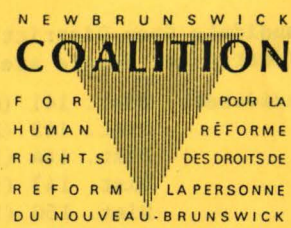
*Mais la Coalition ne peut revendiquer vos droits sans votre appui. Elle entre justement dans la phase la plus critique de sa campagne. C'est maintenant qu'elle doit entreprendre une campagne d'envoi de lettres, rédiger des publications, et préparer sa campagne de publicité dans les médias.*

*Vous pensez peut-être qu vous n'avez pas été l'objet de discrimination. Vous vous trompez la discrimination hétérosexiste est tellement répandue qu'on n'a reconnaît même pas. Bien sûr, vous n'avez probablement pas été congédié(e) si vous n'êtes pas sorti(e), mais le simple fait*

NEW BRUNSWICK  
**COALITION**  
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS REFORM  
POUR LA RÉFORME DES DROITS DE LA PERSONNE  
DU NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK



④ d'être obligé(e) de cacher votre orientation afin d'éviter la discrimination est en soi la forme la plus opprimante de discrimination. D'autre part, vous êtes victime de discrimination même si vous habitez ouvertement avec un(e) amant(e), car on vie probablement à votre conjoint(e) les pensions de retraite et d'assurance-groupe que votre employeur offre aux couples de sexes opposés.



Ne vous trompez pas; les droits des gais et des lesbiennes, ça vous concerne tous. Participez dans cette campagne pour les droits des gais et lesbiennes. Il n'y a jamais eu un temps si propice pour faire une contribution permanente à l'amélioration de votre communauté.

Le 19 novembre au Club Equality on discutera surtout de ce que nous pouvons tous contribuer à la campagne d'envoi de lettres et de lobbying de la Coalition. Vous pouvez faire une contribution importante même si vous n'êtes pas sorti(e). Prenez en note cette date et faites vos plans sans tarder. ▽

● CLUB EQUALITY - rue Principale, Sainte-Anne, au-dessous du Club Capricorn, entrée arrière.

Nov. 1988 **== IF YOU DON'T FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHTS, WHO WILL? ==**

Nov. 1988  
Communiqué

If you want to do your share for gay and lesbian rights, don't miss the next meeting of the Coalition for Human Rights Reform, Saturday, November 19 at Club Equality in Sainte-Anne-de-Madawaska, starting at 4pm, followed by a free buffet at 7pm (N-B time).

The Coalition is a network of francophone and anglophone gays and lesbians working together to press the provincial government to amend the Human Rights Act to prohibit discrimination against gay people in employment, housing, and public services. Such protection is already provided in Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and the Yukon.

Already, the Coalition has submitted an impressive brief to the government and has met with some key ministers. It has also obtained the support of major organizations, including the Human Rights Commission itself, as well as the Advisory Council on the Status of Women, the Anglican Church, the Association of Social Workers, the Civil Liberties Association, and the Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons. Many other organizations are expected to follow suit in the next few months.

However, the Coalition can't lobby effectively for your rights without your support. The most critical phase of its campaign is just starting, as it organizes a letterwriting campaign, develops publications, and prepares its media campaign.

Perhaps you think that you haven't been subjected to discrimination. You're wrong. Heterosexist discrimination is so common we don't even notice it most of the time. Naturally, you probably haven't been fired because of your sexual orientation if you're not out. However, the very fact that you are forced to remain in the closet to avoid discrimination is itself the most oppressive form of discrimination. On the other hand, you're a victim if discrimination even if you live openly with a lover of several years, since your lover is probably denied the pension and group insurance benefits provided by your employer to heterosexual couples.

Make no mistake; gay-lesbian rights is your business. Join the Coalition's campaign for gay-lesbian rights. There has never been a better time to make a lasting contribution to our community.

The meeting November 19th will focus on how you can become involved in the Coalition's lobbying and letterwriting campaign. You do not have to be out to make an important contribution. Jot down the date and make your plans now. ▽

● CLUB EQUALITY - Main Street, Sainte-Anne, downstairs from the Club Capricorn; rear entrance.